

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

1. (Original) A thin film magnetic head comprising:

a magnetic pole major layer terminated at a position receding from a medium-opposed surface;

an intermediate magnetic layer extending forward toward the medium-opposed surface from a surface of the magnetic pole major layer, said intermediate magnetic layer terminated at a position receding from the medium-opposed surface; and

a tip magnetic layer extending to the medium-opposed surface from a surface of the intermediate magnetic layer, the tip magnetic layer getting exposed at the medium-opposed surface.
2. (Currently amended) The thin film magnetic head according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein a front end of the intermediate magnetic layer is positioned closer to the medium-opposed surface than a front end of the magnetic pole major layer is.
3. (Original) The thin film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a primary magnetic pole tip region is defined in the tip magnetic layer, the primary

magnetic pole tip region extending rearward from the medium-opposed surface, keeping a constant lateral width.

4. (Original) The thin film magnetic head according to claim 3, wherein a front end of the intermediate magnetic layer is positioned closer to the medium-opposed surface than a rear end of the primary magnetic pole tip region is.

5. (Original) The thin film magnetic head according to claim 3, wherein the primary magnetic pole tip region has a front end surface exposed at the medium-opposed surface, a leading edge of the front end surface being reduced in lateral width than a trailing edge of the front end surface.

6. (Original) The thin film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a flat surface is defined on a surface of the magnetic pole major layer so as to receive the intermediate magnetic layer.

7. (Original) The thin film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a flat surface is defined on a surface of the intermediate magnetic layer so as to receive the tip magnetic layer.

8. (Original) The thin film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate magnetic layer defines an inclined surface expanding outward from an outer periphery of the tip magnetic layer, a foot of the inclined surface being received on the magnetic pole major layer.

9. (Original) A method of making a thin film magnetic head, comprising:

forming a magnetic pole major layer adjacent a first insulating layer;

forming a first magnetic material layer on surfaces of the magnetic pole major layer and the first insulating layer, said first magnetic material layer extending forward from a front end of the magnetic pole major layer;

forming a second insulating layer on surfaces of the magnetic pole major layer and the first insulating layer so as to cover the first magnetic material layer with the second insulating layer;

subjecting the second insulating layer to flattening process so as to expose at a flattened surface the first magnetic material layer surrounded by the second insulating layer;

forming a second magnetic material layer on the flattened surface;

forming a mask on a surface of the second magnetic material layer, said mask extending forward from a front end of the first magnetic material layer; and

shaping a magnetic pole layer out of the first and second magnetic material layers by utilizing the mask.